

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2001 LB 244, 245

ourselves for some of those developments that could happen. So thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. The question...the question before the body is advancement of LB 244 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the advancement of LB 244. Have you all voted who care to? Record vote has been requested. Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 542.) 35 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 244.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 244 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 245 was a bill by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 5, referred to Transportation, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, to open on advancement of LB 245.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is a follow-up to LB 829, which was passed by this Legislature in...in 1999, which created the Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council, and in that particular piece of legislation, it stated that a feasibility study on the...on the corridor from Lincoln to Omaha, and Omaha to Lincoln, and the...the feasibility of high-speed rail transportation in that area should be studied and completed by January 1 of 2002. It also set a termination date for that council of June 30th of 2003. LB 245 would extend those time lines for two years, to 2004 and 2005 respectively. When LB 829 was passed, there was no funding, there was no funding approved by the Legislature, and so the advisory...Rail Advisory Council set out to try to secure some funding through the Department of Roads or through grants or through federal funds or through private funds, and they did raise some private funds, but they did not raise enough to do a comprehensive study like was envisioned in LB 829. The purpose of LB 829 was to do a thorough feasibility study on that